



# Minuteman UPDATE

May 2004

Massachusetts National  
Guard monthly  
newsletter for members,  
families, and friends

Visit the Massachusetts National Guard Website at [www.state.ma.us/guard](http://www.state.ma.us/guard)

## Three units return home

By Capt. Winfield Danielson, State Public Affairs Officer

The four days from April 20 to April 23 were among the busiest and most joyous for the Mass. National Guard. Almost 400 soldiers from three different units returned to their communities and a festive welcome from their families and friends.

The 110th Maintenance Company's 200 soldiers were the first to return, rolling into the Ayer, Mass. armory at 3 p.m. on April 20. An estimated crowd of more than 500 greeted the unit. Flags and music abounded, and children wore T-shirts with photos of their soldiers.

The 110th provided maintenance support to units operating in theatre. While there, the unit completed nearly 4,000 work orders in support of more than 160 customers.

The welcome was brief and unofficial. Soldiers gathered their personal belongings and left to spend time with family members. "The priority is to get these soldiers home with their loved ones as soon as possible," noted Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe. "It's still important to recognize their accomplishments by pinning awards and allowing community leaders to thank them officially, so we schedule an official recognition ceremony for another time."

Three days later, 43 members of the Headquarters Detachment, 726th Maintenance Battalion, returned to the Mass. National Guard Headquarters in Milford, Mass. In addition to the 110th Maintenance Company, the 726th found itself responsible for managing a variety of active Army, Reserve and National Guard support units at Tallil Air Base, Iraq.

After an enthusiastic welcome by about 150 family members and Guard personnel, including banners, balloons

and ballyhoo, the 726th members headed off with their loved ones.

Just 90 minutes after the 726th arrived in Milford, the 1058th Transportation Company triumphantly pulled in front of its Hingham, Mass. armory, escorted by a parade of police and fire department vehicles.

Residents, supporters and 'welcome home' signs lined the streets for miles as the 136 members made their way to the armory. A crowd estimated at more than 600 greeted the soldiers.

"For me, despite everything we went through, the most shocking thing about our deployment was our welcome back to Hingham, and how honored we felt," said 1058th commander Capt. Christine Hoffman.



*Family members of the 110th Maintenance Company (Ayer, Mass.) wave flags and wear tee shirts with pictures of their deployed soldiers. Photo by Cpl. Tania Carter, Unit Public Affairs Representative, 110th Maintenance Company.*

# The New Ceremonial Bugle

By Sgt. 1st Class Fred Coe, JFHQ Mass. National Guard

On Memorial Day 1999 the Honor Guard Bugler at Arlington National Cemetery played "Taps" and was simultaneously recorded for use with the Pentagon's new electronic ceremonial bugle.

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2000 authorized the playing of "Taps" at veterans' military funerals. However, the US military has only about 500 buglers while the number of veterans who pass away each day averages almost 1,800. In an attempt to meet the demand for buglers the military has distributed audiocassettes and higher-quality compact disk recordings, but for many family members the visual image of a live bugler was missing.

This led to the development and introduction of a digital cone-shaped device that fits snugly into the bugle's bell and plays a high quality rendition of "Taps" from the 1999 Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery. Many honor guard units are now using the new digital ceremonial bugle when a real bugler is unable to attend.

On February 12, 2004, the Mass. National Guard's Ceremonial Honor Guard Unit played "Taps" for the first time using the new electronic ceremonial bugle at the military funeral of Mass. Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Angelo Iaconi, in Worcester, Massachusetts. Many family members did not realize the "Taps" rendition was digital - the clear and sharp sounds were a dignified and significant part of the military funeral honors.



*The traditional bugle and the new high-tech insert used to play taps.*

## Calling All UPARs!!!

The Minuteman is looking for good articles and photos that show what's happening in your unit. Send your pictures and stories to:

pallas.debettencourt@ma.ngb.army.mil

or by mail to:  
MSG Pallas deBettencourt  
50 Maple Street  
Milford, MA 01757

or by FAX to:  
(508) 233-6585  
Attn: MSG deBettencourt

If we use your material we'll send you a letter of appreciation (which is worth two EPPS points).

## Congratulations from the State Command Sergeant Major

- **Sgt. Jamie L. Bourgault** of the  
1st Bn. 181st Infantry  
graduated from Primary  
Leader Development  
Course (PLDC) on 23  
March 2004 as Honor  
Graduate. This was the first  
PLDC class conducted at  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

- **Sgt. Timothy Olander** of the  
1st Civil Support Team was  
named the Outstanding  
NCO of 2003 for the  
Massachusetts Army  
National Guard.

- **Spc. Justin D. Collins** of B  
Co. 1st Bn. 182nd Infantry  
was selected as the  
Outstanding Soldier for  
2003 for the Massachusetts  
Army National Guard.

Job well done!